

**BUTTE COUNTYWIDE HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE
MEMORANDUM**

Date: July 27, 2017

To: CoC Council and Members

From: James Coles, Housing Tools, Consultant for the Butte Countywide Homeless CoC

RE: HUD Continuum of Care 2017 NOFA and Ranking Process

Background: The CoC Program (24 CFR pat 578) is designed to promote a county-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and local government to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

2017 NOFA: The HUD Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for federal fiscal year 2017 was released on July 14, 2017. It outlines requirements for approximately \$2 billion in 2017/2018 federal fiscal year homeless assistance grants, administered by HUD in compliance with the HEARTH Act.

Total funds available for Butte County, also called the Pro Rata Need, total \$605,781. The annual amount for renewable grants, also called the Annual Renewal Demand, is roughly equivalent with last year's NOFA, at \$528,301. This year's NOFA includes a Permanent Housing Bonus of \$34,210. Projects eligible for the Permanent Housing Bonus are permanent supportive housing projects where 100 percent of the beds are dedicated to chronically homeless individuals and families; Dedicated PLUS projects where 100 percent of the beds serve disabled individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness (see NOFA Section III.A.3.d); rapid rehousing projects; and joint transitional housing and rapid rehousing projects (see the NOFA for full descriptions of these housing projects). An additional \$17,105 is available for a non-competitive Planning Grant, applied for by the Collaborative Applicant and used for CoC-wide planning.

New projects may apply for CoC funds for following types of projects:

1. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) that dedicates 100% of their units to chronically homeless individuals and families;
2. Rapid Rehousing Projects (RRH), including unaccompanied youth;
3. Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing Projects (Joint TH and PH-RRH), a newly eligible program type;
4. Dedicated Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) projects; and
5. Supportive services to develop or operate a coordinated assessment system.

Eligible renewal projects may expand units, beds, persons, or services through the reallocation process or permanent housing bonus funds this year. Transitional, Supportive Services Only, and Safe Haven projects may only expand through the reallocation process.

Although the funding allocation is anticipated to be adequate for all project renewals, HUD again requests that projects are ranked and placed in Tiers 1 and 2 this year to prioritize projects in case there is a reduction in funds. The total funding amount for Tier 1 will be 94% of the Annual Renewal Demand. The total funding amount for Tier 2 will be the remaining 6% of the Annual Renewal Demand, plus the Permanent Housing Bonus (if an application for the Permanent Housing Bonus is submitted). HUD's scoring criteria for Tier 2 projects will include: 1) the CoC Consolidated Application Score; 2) the project's rank in the CoC's Priority Listing; and 3) incorporation of a Housing First approach. CoCs are required to maintain an HMIS program, so the HMIS Project Application will by necessity be high priority. Also of note, the NOFA encourages reallocation of CoC funds to better meet the NOFA Policy Priorities.

The NOFA requires CoCs to review and rank applications within their geographic areas according to specific eligibility and quality thresholds, as well as how effectively they align with the 2017 NOFA Priorities below. The local application process is under development and will be approved by the CoC Council prior to its implementation. Once approved, it will be posted on the CoC webpage: www.buttehomelesscoc.com.

2017 CoC NOFA Policy Priorities

1. Ending homelessness for all persons
2. Creating a systemic response to homelessness
3. Strategically allocating and using resources
4. Use of a Housing First approach

Schedule: Below is the schedule based on the September 28, 2017 CoC Application due date.

CoC Council Meeting review of NOFA, Project Application RFP, Review and Ranking Procedures, and Reallocation Process	August 8
Post NOFA, application form, eligibility requirements, and scoring criteria on CoC website, distribute to CoC membership, and send out press release	August 10
Applications due for review and ranking	August 24
CoC Council meeting to approve Priority Listing of applications	September 5
Notify applicants of ranking in Priority Listing, and post on CoC website	September 6
Project applications due in e-snaps	September 13
Consolidated application and Priority Listing made available for CoC Council, Project Applicants and public review	September 18
Receive comments on Consolidated Application and Priority Listing	September 20
Submit Consolidated Application and Priority Listing in e-snaps and post on CoC website	September 22

Next Steps: *A CoC Council Meeting has been scheduled for August 8, 2017, 9:00-11:00, at the Housing Authority of the County of Butte.* More information about the project application process will be presented at that meeting, and the application form, eligibility requirements, and scoring criteria will be posted on the CoC website on August 10, 2017.

Information and Questions: Project Applicants and CoC Councilmembers are encouraged to review the NOFA, Interim Rule and training materials available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2017-CoC-Program-Competition-NOFA.pdf>. Announcements will be posted on www.buttehomelesscoc.com. Please contact James Coles at Housing Tools with any questions, at jcoles@housing-tools.com or 530-513-3116.

